



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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MINUTES

Name of Organization: Nevada Commission on Services for Persons with Disabilities (Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 426.365)

Date and Time of Meeting: February 2, 2011
12:30 p.m.

Location: Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD)
3416 Goni Road
Building D, Suite 132
Carson City, Nevada 89706
(775) 687-4210

Members attended in person and called into the meeting via telephone.

Members Present: Bill Heavilin, Brian Patchett, Cheryl Dinnell, Gary Olsen, Jim Osti, Jodi Sabal, Jon Sasser, Karen Taycher, Korri Ward, Mary Bryant, Paul Gowins (Chair)

Excused: (All members were present)

Staff Present: Todd Butterworth, Vicki Puccinelli, Lisa Jones

Guests: Robin Hall-Walker, Client Assistance Program, Nevada State Rehabilitation Council Chair; Cash Minor, Elko County; Jack Mayes, Nevada Disability Advocacy and Law Center; Mike McMahon, Consumer Direct; Reggie Bennett, Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently; Janice John, Vocational Rehabilitation; Dan Olsen, Nevada Medicaid; Corrie Herrera, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living; Bruce Nysberg, Mental Health and Developmental Services; Lisa Erquiaga, Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living; Linda Bowman, Nevada Medicaid; Chris Jensen, Care Chest; Hilary Jones, Medicaid Business Lines Unit; Mary Evilsizer, Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living; Jan Crandy, Autism Coalition of Nevada; Gerianne Hummel (Interpreter); Katherine Edwards (Interpreter); Betty Hammond (Interpreter)

I. Welcome and Introductions Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Gowins called the meeting to order, and introductions were made by all present for the record.

A quorum was declared with nine of the eleven members in attendance, however the remaining two members joined the meeting after it was called to order.

II. *Approval of the Minutes from the November 9, 2010, Meeting
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Bryant made a motion to accept the draft minutes as presented, and Commissioner Olsen seconded. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gowins asked that in the future the minutes include more detail and reflect the depth at which each item is discussed. Commissioner Olsen suggested that meeting participants take more care to speak more slowly and in turn to enable more accurate and detailed recording of the meetings.

III. *Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Education of New Legislators in the Issues that Affect People with Disabilities
Mary Bryant, Commission Member

Commissioner Sasser suggested a group of commissioners, perhaps a small delegation, come to Carson City to meet with legislators for the purpose of educating new legislators and legislative leaders on the potential impact of proposed budget cuts. He stated it is important to educate as many legislators as possible, but that it can be very difficult to schedule time with those that we want to reach, especially as we get further into session.

Commissioner Gowins led a discussion among the commissioners as to what mechanism to use in pursuing this goal. Commissioner Sasser noted that the best opportunity for educating legislatures was before session started, which has already passed. These suggestions were made and discussed:

- Add a legislative member to the commission. This will be discussed under the next agenda item.
- Schedule an event at the legislature and invite legislators. The commission does not have any budget for this, but perhaps we could work with another group that has an event scheduled which we could piggy-back onto. Many of the commissioners are working with other groups who are putting on events, and if we had some literature put together for commissioners to pass out, this might be a very good opportunity for getting the right information to the right individuals.
- Go in small delegations and make appointments with individual legislators. It is important to make the commission know as a group, but it is also important that the commissioners introduce themselves as individuals. Commissioner Sasser offered to assist individual members in setting up meetings.
- Arrange to make presentations at committee hearings.

- Prepare and disseminate literature. This could introduce the commission and let the reader know about the strategic plan and the monitoring of it, in addition to other efforts. Commissioner Gowins stated he would draft such a letter for this purpose, listing members and areas of expertise, and inviting contact with our members. Commissioner Bryant will also finish drafting the goals document she is working on so it can be used for this purpose.

IV. * Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Possibility of Adding a Legislative Member to the Commission
Commissioners

Mr. Butterworth stated his recollection and understanding of statute is that the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is not prevented from appointing a legislator to serve as one of the eleven members of our commission, however if our intent is to compel a legislative member to serve on our commission that may require a change to statute.

The following possible actions were discussed:

- Ask Mr. Willden, as the appointing authority, to appoint a couple of legislators if we have openings that would allow this.
- Write a letter to the legislative leadership saying who we are, when we are meeting, and that we would like to invite the legislature to appoint one legislator from each house to attend our meetings as non-voting members.
- Approach the legislative leadership and ask if they have someone with an interest who might want to become part of our group, and then ask Mr. Willden and see what he wants to do. We would also need to take a look at the statute.

Commissioner Taycher suggested that since Commissioner Gowins is going to write a letter to the legislature anyway, he should include the question as to whether there might be interest in having someone participate in our group. Commissioner Gowins stated he would include a statement that we would like to have the leadership encourage legislators with interest in this area to please try to attend our meetings and act as a liaison between the commission and the legislature. Commissioner Olsen suggested we make the invitation to join us for some discussion and deliberation, but not to become formal members.

V. * Discussion and Possible Action on Formal Recommendations for Budgetary and Legislative Proposals to the Nevada Legislature or the United States Congress, Related to Disability Service Issues
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

Commissioner Gowins stated we have been very fortunate to have some of the initially proposed cuts and eliminations looked at again, as it looks like some of the affected populations are going to be in at least a somewhat better position as a result. He went on to say that the education efforts of the autism community and some others are to be commended.

Commissioner Sasser gave a summary of budget cuts currently being proposed.

The commissioners discussed a number of specific potential funding and program cuts and their concerns about how these will affect Nevadans with Disabilities and their families. Members and guests also expressed a great deal of concern about proposed reimbursements and the transfer of responsibility for services from the state to the counties.

Commissioner Gowins suggested that each commissioner draft up a paragraph that would state specifics of how various cuts will affect various populations, so that he can incorporate these points into a letter.

Commissioner Sasser moved that the commission:

- Go on the record as opposing those cuts to disability services that are in the governor's proposed budget;
- Empower our leader to write a letter to the legislature outlining our opposition and giving some of our most dramatic examples highlighting our concerns; and
- Authorize our leader and those he designates to speak out on these issues in the legislature and when they come up in hearing, and to educate members of the legislature on the impact of these cuts.

Commissioner Olsen seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Sasser moved that, as chair, Commissioner Gowins be empowered to speak and, as issues arise, to designate other commissioners to speak on issues in which they have particular expertise. Commissioner Taycher seconded, and the motion passed.

Mr. Mayes offered to share a list of legal blocks to proposed cuts he is compiling.

VI. Update from Vocational Rehabilitation on Their Restructuring and Use of Federal Stimulus Funding
Maureen Cole, Vocational Rehabilitation

Ms. Janice John spoke on behalf of Ms. Cole. She reported on a collaborative effort between DHHS to find permanent jobs for approximately 10,000 currently unemployed workers who are or have been recipients of unemployment benefits and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Nevadans with disabilities are one of the target populations to be served by this program, called

Silver State Works. Ms. John clarified that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) funds would be used only to assist individuals who have disabilities.

Commissioners and guests asked questions and expressed concerns that this program does not add any new resources and may actually divert resources from individuals with disabilities. Ms. John stated that, although there is no additional funding in support of this effort, there will be increased coordination and focus from the agencies involved and that they will be working to get buy-in from employers in the community, as well.

Commissioner Dinnell asked to hear specific details regarding the stimulus spending. Ms. John reported that the VR division received a little over \$4M in stimulus funds. She stated approximately \$1.3M was used to fund employment and training projects in the north and the south as a result of the request-for-application process. Approximately \$2M was allocated to VR direct client services and is used by counselors to provide services to clients. The remaining approximately \$817K was allocated to capacity-building activities such as staff training, materials, equipment, information technology enhancements, outreach materials, etc. An additional \$242K in stimulus funding was received by the Division for the Older Blind Fund as well as another \$280K for independent living in the Older Blind program.

Ms. John gave additional details about the three vendors and stated they were selected based on the quality of their proposals to initiate projects and programs to train and place VR clients. She stated Fallon Industries is a landscape maintenance program with a goal of employing eight to fifteen individuals in the first year. Easter Seals of Southern Nevada places individuals in various jobs in the community and had the goal of employing 150 individuals in the first year. Greener Vegas is a recycling and light manufacturing enterprise where workers sort recyclables from refuse and then manufacture new items from the recovered materials. Ms. John reported the projects are for the most part going well, although they are experiencing longer times in making some placements as a result of the recession.

Commissioner Sasser asked whether the state-match amount in the VR budget proposal is being cut for the next two years, and how far short the budget is compared to what it would be with the maximum state match. Ms. John stated she would get the answers to these questions and provide them to Mr. Butterworth for distribution to the members.

VII. Update on IDEA Part-C Stimulus Spending
Wendy Whipple, IDEA Part-C

Ms. Whipple reported Nevada received \$1,950,595 for each of the two years for Part-C services, and this amounted to approximately one year's grant award split over the two years. An additional approximately \$480K was later received.

Ms. Whipple stated it was decided at department and governor level to use the initial \$1.9M for direct services. The \$1.9M was rolled out to community providers to hire additional staff for serving additional clients. Ms. Whipple stated these funds enabled elimination of all wait lists with the exception of one waiting list at Nevada Early Intervention Services South, a level that has not been achieved in several years.

Ms. Whipple reported the \$480K will be used to upgrade the IDEA Part-C legacy database to a more accessible and more user friendly web-based application which will also provide more meaningful and usable data analyses regarding the services provided and those receiving them.

Commissioner Olsen asked if the "Hearing Impaired" category can be broken down into Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf Blind. Ms. Whipple stated she would address this with their audiologist.

Ms. Whipple stated that, although Governor Sandoval has restored proposed funding to projected caseload levels, she believes the caseload growth will be higher than previously projected and will result in a return to longer wait lists.

VIII. Updates on Other Stimulus Spending, Including State Independent Living and Centers for Independent Living

Todd Butterworth, Lisa Erquiaga and Mary Evilsizer

Mr. Butterworth reported on the \$242,913 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) received by ASD's Disability Services Unit as a supplement to the State's grant for independent living services for people with disabilities. He stated these funds have been used for the following:

- Hired two case managers (north and south)
- Purchased a videoconferencing system for multiple grantee sites where independent-living services are provided to enhance an existing statewide videoconferencing network in the nonprofit community
- Funded Tony Records' Olmstead study.

Mr. Butterworth reported that the approximately \$99,600 remaining will be used as follows:

- Continued funding for the two case management positions for SFY 2011
- Funding for a consultant to advise the centers for independent living in to help them diversify their funding base (by helping them examine potential fee-for-service options, etc.)
- Funding for development and launch of a web-based registry of accessible housing

Commissioner Gowins invited Mr. Bennett of Rebuilding All Goals Efficiently (RAGE) to report on the impact of ARRA funds at RAGE. In response, Mr.

Bennett stated the additional case worker provided by the ADSD stimulus funding has helped them to serve more consumers and substantially cut down the length required for various parts of the paperwork cycle, from client application to getting case closure information to ADSD. He indicated that the additional case worker has both increased the number of clients RAGE is able to serve and the efficiency of the process.

Mr. Bennett also stated the addition of the videoconferencing system has been tremendously helpful in cutting down travel to the north for meetings and allowing them to be a part of meetings they might not otherwise be able to fully participate in. He continued to say that the equipment has been very helpful in accessing training, as well.

Ms. Evilsizer stated that although the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living has had existing videoconferencing equipment, the installation of the new system at RAGE has meant that individuals do not have to travel across town in order to access a meeting or training event via videoconference.

Ms. Erquiaga reported that expansion to the videoconference network has been a great help for everyone, because with systems in Fallon and Elko as well as Sparks and Las Vegas we now have statewide coverage. She offered to share her log of video-equipment usage with the commission to illustrate their extensive use of the equipment.

Ms. Erquiaga stated that with the addition of a half-time case manager position, NNCIL's experience has been similar to RAGE's in increasing clients served and efficiency serving them.

Mr. Butterworth responded to questions from commissioners and guests to provide further clarification as to how the ARRA funds were spent. He stated that, although the case-manager positions are only funded through SFY 2011, they have provided an important benefit in that RAGE and NNCIL were able to provide services to individuals who would have otherwise had to wait for services. He also clarified that although legislation enabled the accessible housing registry, the ARRA funding provided the resources to put this in place.

IX. *Report from Northern Nevada Transportation Coalition (NNTC) and Possible Action Regarding Possible Suspension of North Eastern Area Transit (NEAT) Bus Service in Rural Nevada

Cash A. Minor, Assistant County Manager/CFO, Elko County

Mr. Minor reported the county took possession of the rural transportation buses in Elko late Friday night and is having Coach America run the busses with all five routes and demand-response services back in operation. He stated there are no contracts or grants yet in place and rates for passes have not yet been set. The county continues to work on the details, however, and is moving forward with

plans for an initial eight-month emergency contract with plans for subsequent annual contracts beginning in August of this year.

Commissioner Olsen asked if there is telephone relay service available for Deaf individuals who want to communicate with the bus service dispatchers. Mr. Minor indicated he is unsure whether Coach America is set up to provide this access, but he will check and let Mr. Butterworth know what he finds out. Mr. Butterworth pointed out this is not an equipment requirement but rather a matter of training and suggested the Division have the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Center contact Mr. Minor about getting a Nevada Relay orientation for the dispatchers.

Ms. Herrera asked whether the county is in communication with Logisticare. Mr. Minor indicated the county and Logisticare are in preliminary stages of communication as part of the county's effort to get all of their contracts in place.

Commissioners and guests expressed their gratitude for Elko County's stepping up and doing what they can to address the lack of rural public transportation that resulted when Northern Nevada Transit Coalition discontinued its NEAT bus service.

X. Update from Medicaid on the Progress of the "Medical Home" Concept
Hilary Jones, Nevada Medicaid

Ms. Jones presented information regarding the Health Home Medical Home project. She stated her division's unit for healthcare reform is working with the Legislature, the Welfare Division and other sister agencies on development of the Affordable Care Act, and implementing the patient-centered Medical Home. Ms. Jones explained this is just a small aspect of the Affordable Care Act. She stated two high-priority goals are streamlining and coordination of care for high-cost Medicaid recipients—including those who are aged, blind, and disabled.

Ms. Jones also reported the following:

- NV Medicaid is between contractors for the project but has consulted with NV groups actively developing health homes and has participated in a collaborative with national groups and other states working on home-health initiatives.
- A medical home is not a place of service but a coordinated concept of care that centers around the patient's needs with primary care as the major provider source for the patients' needs.
- Three case-management tiers are determined through claims analysis.
- Project expenses include reimbursing providers for some medical-home startup expenses, as well as hiring new staff and conducting provider outreach and member education. Hopefully, healthcare reform will provide some reimbursement at an enhanced federal matching rate.

- Medicaid is conducting cost-benefit and care-coordination readiness and implementation analyses to present to DHHS, and then to the legislature for special consideration after their review of budgetary items.
- Working with provider partners to develop a strategic plan, develop program structure, and create community buy-in. Will work with partners to develop a working definition of a medical home, quality metrics, and savings goals providers would be reimbursed for meeting. Continuing meetings with healthcare coalition, providers, and community at large.
- Once the plan is developed we will attempt to get a federal enhanced matching rate for some options.
- Awaiting outcome of litigation concerning federal health reform bills, as well as legal opinions regarding accountable-care organizations.

Ms. Jones clarified the 90% enhanced reimbursement is for provider pay-for-performance, which happens when cost savings and/or improved health outcome is shown after providing case-management and extended-value-added services (e.g., coordinating care, following up on lab work, etc.). She explained the per-member-per-month fee for care coordination would be calculated up front, and the provider could either hire staff to provide those functions or contract them out. Ms. Jones stated providers would be reviewed periodically for cost savings as well as client health outcomes. Metrics would be different for different populations (e.g., reducing inhalers use for asthma or better lab results for diabetes).

Commissioner Ward shared her positive experience, both as a parent of a child with intense medical needs and as a recipient of training through the American Academy of Pediatrics. She stated the care of the patient is coordinated and shared among the various doctors and other health-care providers so the family can work with the local doctor rather than having to do the coordination, leaving parents free to focus more on their children, for example.

Ms. Jones stated she would forward to the commissioners some links to web sites that explain the Medical Home concept in layman's terms.

Commissioners and guests raised a number of concerns, including these:

- We have a stake in the Medical Home project, because the target population includes the individuals we represent to such a large degree. We need to ensure stakeholders and consumer groups are included throughout the process.
- We need to be careful that people are not being rewarded for providing less service.
- If participation is voluntary, what are the other options? If it is not voluntary, we need to be very careful.

Ms. Jones indicated she would be willing to meet with the commissioners either individually or as a task force and stated there is time to do this. Mr. Butterworth

suggested a subcommittee be appointed and meet with Ms. Jones as soon as is practical. He added that, if legislative activity is imminent and the subcommittee feels they need to be formally involved, the subcommittee chair could contact ADSD to request a public telephone meeting of the commission in order to address this.

Commissioner Gowins appointed a subcommittee to work with Ms. Jones regarding the Medical Home project, study the concept further, and report back to the commission:

- Commissioner Jon Sasser, Chair
- Commissioner Korri Ward, Member
- Commissioner Cheryl Dinnell, Member
- Commissioner Karen Taycher, Member

XI. Update Regarding the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) Health Insurance for Work Advancement (HIWA) Program
Dan Olsen, Nevada Medicaid

Mr. Olsen explained the grant has supported the competitive employment of individuals with disabilities by enhancing the State employment infrastructure and service-delivery systems. The funding source for this was the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Mr. Olsen reported the 2010 Nevada Medicaid Infrastructure Grant ended December 31, 2010, and the funding awarded was \$750,000. He then summarized several recent accomplishments of the HIWA program in the areas of benefits planning, employment supports, employment networking, and employment training and education.

Mr. Olsen reported that Medicaid is not proposing any changes to the HIWA program and that it will continue after the sunset of the grant. He stated the following MIG activities for 2011:

- Submitted 2011 grant application in August 2010 for \$750,000. This is our last year of funding and our project end date is slated for December 31, 2011.
- Primary grant focus areas include:
 - Improvement of interagency collaboration and communication, engaging individuals with disabilities in career developmental experiences at a younger age
 - Expanding and enhancing transportation options for persons with disabilities
 - Educating and expanding the use of assistive technology to increase employment options
- Notice of Grant Award was just received today.
- Notice of Funds Available will be announced statewide for request for proposals to address MIG priorities and initiatives. Projects would be able to carry out their activities until December 2011.

- XII. *Discussion and Possible Determination of Issues and Agenda Items to be Considered or Deliberated at Next Meeting
Paul Gowins, Commission Chairperson

The commissioners suggested the following items for discussion at the next meeting:

- Programs and services impacted by the state budget
- Follow up on relay services training for transportation coalition dispatchers
- Report from subcommittee regarding medical home concept
- Invite county representatives to speak about impact of budget cuts on them
- Dan Olsen on HIWA RFP awards
- Goals matrix for the Commission
- Speaker from Mental Health to report on long-term effects of budget cuts
- Legislator to speak
- Programs/services impacted by state budget

- XIII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was no public comment.

- XIV. *Set Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting and was set for 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, in Carson City. The commissioners have asked to meet in the legislature building or nearby in order to be convenient to the legislators. Lisa Jones will arrange the venue and inform the members.

- XV. Adjournment *

Commissioner Olsen moved for adjournment, and Commissioner Dinnell seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

* Denotes items on which action may be taken.
NOTE: Items may be considered out of order.